

## *Dyle W. Henderson, 93*

Former Groton resident Dyle W. Henderson, 93, died peacefully of natural causes at his home in Sunland, Calif., Thursday, July 9, 2009.

Dyle Henderson was born in Groton, April 22, 1916 to George and Eliza (Bistodeau) Henderson. He graduated from Groton High School in 1936. He lettered in four sports and was a star quarterback on the football team. Dyle and his brother, Donald, studied music and operatic singing for several years, and followed their teacher to California in 1937.

Dyle married Ida M. Sanchez, August 15, 1943. Together they had three children, Sharon, David and Dyle. During World War II, Dyle served as a combat MP in the U.S. Army in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany. He worked at Lockheed Aircraft in Burbank, Calif., until 1976. The high point of his career there was his work at "The Skunk Works," where he helped build the SR-71 Blackbird spy plane.

Dyle was a champion baseball coach and an umpire in Little League and Babe Ruth in the late 1950s and early 1960s. He built a beautiful retirement home in Anza, Calif., where he and Ida lived for 30 years. Dyle was a master gardener, a gifted dancer and singer, and a beloved husband and father. He is survived by his wife, three children and their spouses, and seven grandchildren.